UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION AUTHORIZES NEW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ON SOUTHEASTERN COAST OF MAINE

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has authorized Federal purchase of 1,962 acres in three coastal sites in Maine, between Kittery and Portland, to preserve the last coastal marshes in the southern part of that State.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, Commission chairman, said that purchase will be handled by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife as the nucleus for a Coastal Maine National Wildlife Refuge to be administered by the Bureau.

Preserving Maine's coastal marshes is a joint State-Federal program with acquisition efforts by the State's Department of Inland Fisheries and Game directed toward the Scarboro Marshes southwest of Portland.

"Maine's coastal marshes from Brave Boat Harbor to Spurwink River are threatened by destruction from garbage fills, landfills for subdivisions, marinas and harbor projects," Secretary Udall said. "We can expect these destructive forces to continue if the marshes are not publicly preserved."

This marsh complex provides production and migration areas for waterfowl and other migratory birds. Funds for acquisition will come from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps, required by migratory waterfowl hunters 16 years or older.

The Commission, which met July 26 in Washington, D. C., authorized enlargement of three refuges: Ottawa in north-central Ohio, 535 acres to be added; Santee in South Carolina, 1 1/2 acres; and Columbia in Central Washington, 200 acres. These additions, plus the Maine marshlands, are expected to cost approximately \$472,000.

The Commission also approved Minutes of its June 7 meeting except for an 1,889-acre addition to the Missisquoi Refuge in Vermont, which was deferred pending further study.

Other members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission are Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Commerce John T. Connor, United States Senator Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska, United States Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana, United States Representative Frank M. Karsten of Missouri, and United States Representative Silvio O. Conte of Massachusetts.

Ex-officio members of the Commission on July 26, representing some of the States where acquisitions were authorized, were: Kenneth W. Hodgdon, Acting Chief, Game and Management Division, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game; Donald W. Thompson, Supervisor of Game Management, Division of Wildlife, Ohio Department of Natural Resources; and Pat Ryan, Assistant Director, Division of Game and Boating, South Carolina Wildlife Resources Department.

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